

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 17-23, 27, 29-30, 34-36, and 38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 24-26 and 31-33 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 8-9, 11, 13, 15, 36, and 38 have been amended. Claims 7, 12, 14, 16, 28, 31-33, and 37 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

A telephonic interview was conducted between Shoaib Mithani and Examiner Katherine Moran on June 14, 2006, in which claim 34 was discussed. No agreement was reached with respect to the allowability of claim 34, however, Examiner Moran indicated that the arguments presented during the telephonic interview should be included in response to the Office Action dated May 9, 2006.

Claims 12 and 15 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 35 has been indicated as allowable. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Office Action asserts that the claimed feature of a plurality of ribs in combination with ridges on an interior region, with the ridges of different lengths must be shown. In response, Applicant has amended claim 36 to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-14, 16, 18-21, 27-30, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0126669 to Bignon et al. ("Bignon"). Claims 7, 16, and 28 have been canceled, thus rendering the rejections thereof moot.

Independent claim 1 relates to a hand protector and grip enhancer. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features from dependent claims 7 and 12. Claim 12 has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Claim 15 has been

amended to include the features from independent claim 1 and dependent claim 7. Claim 15 has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 15 distinguish over Bignon and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-14, 18-21, 27, 29-30 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-14, 18-21, 27, 29-30 also distinguish over Bignon. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-14, 18-21, 27, 29-30 is respectfully requested.

With respect to withdrawn claims 24-26, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be rejoined to the application as they depend from otherwise allowable independent claim 1.

Independent claim 34 relates to a hand protector and grip enhancer. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference of Bignon fails to teach, suggest, or anticipate at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 34. More specifically, Bignon fails to teach or suggest an interior region having a plurality ribs that bridge across a hinge region and extends generally perpendicularly from the hinge region towards a first and second ends of the C-shaped body and wherein at least two of the plurality of ribs are of different lengths.

Bignon discloses a glove having two parallel longitudinal ribs 44 and 46 on a front face 25 above a zone that connects with a secondary pocket 30. In contrast to claim 34, the ribs 44 and 46 as disclosed in FIG. 3 of Bignon are identical and are not of different lengths as claimed in independent claim 34. In addition, FIG. 6 of Bignon disclose small transverse ribs 48. However, the ribs 48 as disclosed in FIG. 6 of Bignon do not extend generally perpendicularly from the hinge region towards the first and second ends of the C-shaped body as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 34 distinguishes over Bignon and is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of amended claim 34 as anticipated by Bignon is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bignon in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,990,553 to Koffler et al. ("Koffler"). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bignon in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,955,989 to Uhri ("Uhri"). Claims 22-23 and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bignon in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,181,198 to Stelzen ("Stelzen"). Claim 37 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection thereof moot. The remaining claims depend from allowable independent claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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